



May 12, 2021

RE: Begin Immunization of Adolescents 12 years and older with Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine

Dear COVID-19 Vaccine Provider,

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) today recommended the Pfizer vaccine be used in all adolescents from ages 12 to 15 years. With today's CDC approval, all providers with Pfizer vaccine on hand should begin to vaccinate young people in that age group.

Vaccine must be administered in accordance with the FDA's updated emergency use authorization (EUA). All vaccine recipients, or a parent or guardian if the recipient is a minor, must be given the fact sheet for recipients and caregivers prior to vaccination. As a reminder, in Texas, parental consent is required for the vaccination of children in this age group. Consent may be given orally or in writing; the parent does not need to be present for the adolescent to be vaccinated.

- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Letter of Authorization](#)
- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#)
- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering the Vaccine \(Vaccination Providers\)](#)

DSHS is asking all providers to encourage all vaccine recipients or their parents/guardians to consider enrolling in V-safe, CDC's tool that provides health check-ins after someone receives a COVID-19 vaccine: [V-safe](#).

Some other important reminders and reporting requirements:

- Only Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is currently authorized for immunizing adolescents 12 years and older. Both Moderna and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines are authorized for ages 18 years and older.
- Vaccination providers must report adverse reactions to any vaccine through the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System at vaers.hhs.gov.

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- Report all doses administered to ImmTrac2 daily. Note, race and ethnicity are mandatory to report.
- Providers may order Pfizer vaccine through the Vaccine Allocation and Ordering System (VAOS) and can now order smaller amounts of vaccine, in multiples of a single vial (six doses).

While children are less likely than adults to be hospitalized or die from COVID-19, they can be infected with the virus and spread infection in their homes and communities. DSHS believes that promptly vaccinating the adolescents in this age group is another valuable tool that will help end the COVID-19 pandemic and have a direct and positive effect on schools being open for classroom learning.

Consistent with the federal recommendations, DSHS is asking all providers to begin vaccinating adolescents ages 12 years and older with the Pfizer vaccine, effective immediately. DSHS further asks that, whenever possible, providers prioritize vulnerable adolescents, those with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and those that otherwise have a high risk for severe COVID-19 illness.

I thank you for your continued dedication and commitment in vaccinating all eligible Texans.

With regards,

Imelda Garcia, MPH

Associate Commissioner

Texas Department of State Health Services